

Precept Article

Market Bosworth Parish Council

Precept 2017-18

Last year Market Bosworth Parish Council's Finance Working Group recommended an increase to the precept, the first increase for many years. This was predicated on the basis that year on year increases in expenditure had overtaken the income generated from the precept, cemetery fees and the Rectory Lane car park. The Parish Council had also been prudent in minimising the annual expenses by keeping maintenance of assets to a minimum and not undertaking any significant projects to benefit the area.

During the course of the last year the Parish Council has faced new challenges due to the reduction of income, for example from the 'new homes bonus' previously awarded by the local authorities, together with added responsibilities devolved from local authorities. In addition, the Neighbourhood Plan has identified projects which the Council has actively taken on board and, working with other partners, succeeded in moving forward. Several of these were identified in the last Parish Council newsletter. The first stage of improvements to the existing cemetery area has now been completed and the public toilets will be taken over by the Parish Council at the beginning of April.

The Finance Working Group has again reviewed the budget and identified a projected shortfall in income against projected expenses for the next financial year. This is largely due to a much needed upgrade to the Parish Council Office computer system – all the equipment is over 8 years old and continues to function only as a result of much TLC. The Phase 2 cemetery expansion scheme is also a priority and preliminary work has already begun. In addition, the Council has agreed to a maintenance and enhancement project to the Market Place (subject to grant funding support from the Local Authority) and an upgrade to the Memorial Gardens. Also there are increases in administration costs as the Parish Council takes on more responsibilities. The increase to the Precept, the component a householder for the Parish Council element of the Council Tax Bill, will therefore require an increase again this year.

As the diagram below shows, the actual proportion of your council tax bill that is the Parish Council component is still very small. The diagram below is based on data from the 2016 Council Tax leaflet. An average Band D household will pay an additional £24.36 next year which equates to an additional 49 pence per week. The Finance Working Group believes this will provide a satisfactory base level for an ongoing precept to ensure the Parish Council can carry out its duties and responsibilities effectively.

